

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T WELLINGTON 03151

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), PGOV, US, NZ
SUBJECT: ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING

1. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE ANZUS MEETING HAS GIVEN OUR PARTNERS RENEWED CONFIDENCE IN US SUPPORT FOR ANZUS AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT AND COORDC ATE WITH THEM ON REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROBLEMS. IT HAS ALSO PROVIDED BADLY NEEDED REASSURANCE TO NEW ZEALAND ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THERE WAS NO SIGN IN THE TALKS OF EARLIER IFUNHAPPINESS OVER OUR INDIAN OCEAN INITIATIVE WITH THE USSR.

2. IT WAS FORTUITOUS THAT THIS YEAR'S ANZUS MEETING TOOK PLACE IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE ATTENTION PAID THEM BY MY VISIT HAS PRODUCED GOOD DIVIDENDS. THE GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION

AND ISLAND MENTALITY CAUSES NEW ZEALAND TO BE OVERLY SENSITIVE TO REAL OR PERCEIVED INATTENTION. THE OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC REACTION HAS BEEN POSITIVE TO OUR PRESENCE IN WELLINGTON, STATEMENTS ON SYMPATHETIC CONCERN FOR NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND THE REAFFIRMATION OF US SUPPORT FOR ANZUS.

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3. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON HAS BEEN ON HIS BEST BEHAVIOR, BOTH IN OUR BILATERAL TALK AND OUR CONVERSATION AT DINNER AT HIS RESIDENCE. HE WAS VERY SPECIFIC ABOUT SENDING HIS RESPECTS TO YOU AND PRESIDENT CARTER AND IS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FORWARD EAGERLY TO HIS TRIP TO THE US ON NOV 22 - 23. OVERALL HE STRUCK ME AS ROUGH-HEWN AND SOMEWHAT

INSENSITIVE, BUT NONETHELESS FRIENDLY AND PERHAPS NOT A BAD FELLOW TO HAVE ON YOUR SIDE IN A FIGHT.

4. MY EXPLANATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WAS REASSURING AND REMINDED ME THAT WE SHOULD TAKE CARE TO GO BACK TO FIRST PRINCIPLES AND NOT ASSUME THAT OTHERS HAVE FOLLOWED THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR POLICY. IT HAD NOT BEEN UNDERSTOOD, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WE SEE HUMAN RIGHTS BROADLY, INCLUDING ECONOMIC WELL-BEING AND POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE INTEGRITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY IN A REALISTIC FASHION WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, OTHER US INTERESTS AND HENDS RATHER THAN AN ABSOLUTE JUDGMENT. ONCE THEY UNDERSTOOD THIS, THE AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS ACCEPTED OUR POLICY AND ENDORSED IT EXPLICITLY IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. FOLLOWING MY EXPLANATION, THE NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN MINISTER REFERRED TO THE POLICY AS AN "IDEOLOGY OF FREEDOM" WHICH GIVES THE WEST A STRONG WORLD POSITION.

5. ALL THREE ANZUS PARTNERS SHARE A PERCEPTION OF ASEAN AS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, PERHAPS MORE FOR ITS POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT AND THE HABIT IT FOSTERS OF INCREASING BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AMOMN ITS MEMBERS THAN FOR ITS EFFECZVENESS AS AN ECONOMIC INSTITUTION. WE AGREED UPON THE NECESSITY
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OF CONTINUING TO ASSIST ASEAN AND ITS MEMBERS, ()3 -) 9
ENCOURAGING THE SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE WHICH IT HAS
FOSTERED AMONG THEM.

6. CONCERNING THE SOUTH PACIFIC, THERE IS A SENTIMENT ON THE PART OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA THAT THE THREE OF US NEED TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION AND COORDINATE OUR ACTION AS WE WATCH WITH APPREHENSION STILL MORE SMALL, NON-VIABLE ISLANDS BECOME INDEPENDENT (EIGHT HAVE DONE SO IN THE PAST 15 YEARS; FIVE MORE WILL DO SO IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS). THE NEED IS ACCENTUATED BQWGREATER SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.SELDEN

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